

# HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS



Lewisham, August 1977: Hackney NF branch on the march. Homer Sykes

## NF MEET IN HOXTON SCHOOL

The National Front is to hold an election meeting in Whitmore School, Grange Street, Hoxton on Saturday 29 April. The school has been booked by the NF from 2.30 pm but it is thought that the meeting will not be held - if it is at all - until 7.30 pm. The Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) is obliged to let its premises to parties standing at elections for open meetings under the Representation of the People Act. However the NF's conduct at these meetings, when they have refused entry to all but their supporters, has convinced ILEA that the meetings are not open and they will no longer let their schools be used. But on legal advice, ILEA will not cancel the booking of Whitmore School because they are worried about breaking their contract with the NF. So it is likely that this will be the last meeting allowed in a London school.

The NF have misused this Act for too long. They have held several meetings in schools in the last year and deliberately provoked racial tension in multi-racial classrooms and communities. The head teacher of Whitmore School has written to every parent explaining that the school has no connection whatever with the meeting.

The Hackney branch of the National Union of Teachers and Hackney Committee Against Racism has called a picket of the school from 5.30 pm onwards at the school.

It is vital that every person in Hackney who opposes the Front and their fascist policies attends the picket of this meeting. This and the Carnival against the Nazis on the following day give the people of Hackney the chance to say once again, in their thousands, that they have no place for fascists.

The Front and their sympathisers offer no solution to the problems of Hackney, many of which will become the responsibility of the new Council to be elected on 4 May. Inside we print a guide to the elections which we would never claim to be unbiased in favour of the interests of the people of Hackney. See pages 4-5.

## Tory cuts mean 256 is axed

As we revealed in last month's HPP, London Transport has decided to axe one of Hackney's bus services, the 256, which runs from Hackney to Chingford. Despite the efforts of Mr John Baverstock, a Tory candidate on the Council elections, to gain some publicity and dupe the poor old Hackney Gazette, LT's plans were too well advanced for the cut to be lifted. Baverstock claimed that he had been given assurances that the route would not be withdrawn until "policies had been reviewed". He did not say that actually it is his party's policies which have forced this cut on the people of Hackney. The Tory GLC has complete disregard for the need for good public transport in London. They have committed themselves to a re-organisation of LT which will mean cuts in services, increased fares and loss of jobs. Already 80 bus routes have been affected by changes taking place on 22 April (including the axing of the 256) and much wider "re-organisation" (including further cuts) are planned for November.

The "reason" for axing the 256 is that its service is little used between Hackney and Markhouse Road in Leytonstone, and that there is "spare capacity" in other buses travelling along that part of its route. All well and good, but the through passenger must now pay two fares, and wait for two separate buses to turn up. Have the GLC and LT forgotten that public transport

is a necessity and a public service?

Two-thirds of the residents of Hackney have no access at all to private cars (official Government statistics). Every route axed - however little used - is a further blow to the majority of people in Hackney who depend completely on the vagaries of London Transport.

As we go to press we have been told that the Transport and General Workers' Union has planned a series of short stoppages in protest against the cuts and the new schedules. As usual, this means that the public will suffer. Most passengers will probably not realise why this industrial action is being taken, and they are unlikely to find out the reasons, since opportunities for transport workers to put their points of view are very limited. Waltham Forest Trades Council are issuing a leaflet which will be distributed along bus routes when crews are on strike asking for public support for bus workers. This is an idea which should be taken up by other organisations.

However, many transport workers are very concerned about the run-down of LT by the Tories (and the previous Labour GLC implementing Tory policies) and a London-wide campaign has been set up (see letter p.2). Hackney People's Press would still like to hear from any readers interested in a local campaign against fare rises and cuts in services. Please write to us c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, London E8.

## TOM ROBINSON BAND STEEL PULSE & X-RAY SPEX



**RALLY SUNDAY APRIL 30  
11am TRAFALGAR SQUARE  
MARCH TO  
VICTORIA PARK**



**AGAINST THE NAZIS**

ORGANISED BY ANTI NAZI LEAGUE, 12 LITTLE NEWPORT STREET, LONDON WC2, TOGETHER WITH ROCK AGAINST RACISM, HACKNEY CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM, HACKNEY CRC, AND TOWER HAMLETS MOVEMENT AGAINST RACISM & FASCISM

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## letters

### TRANSPORT CAMPAIGN

Dear HPP

After reading your March/April issue the report on the 256 bus service caught my attention immediately I picked up the paper. I feel that I must introduce myself and the Committee of which I am the Secretary, to you and your local campaign.

Our Committee was formed at a delegate conference of London Transport Trade Unions held last June. After many meetings we issued a statement in reply to the Harold Mote Paper "London Transport - A New Look". We then recalled the delegate conference and invited Trades Councils and other outside bodies to send observers. At the conference we stated our aims and put forward a series of objects that we believe are important to fight the Tory Public Transport policies on. The first objective was to arrange a Mass Lobby of the GLC to protest about their plans for the re-organisation of London Transport.

In your article on the 256 bus service you point out some of the Tory policies. However, by careful study of the GLC agendas over the last twelve months a great deal more information can be gleaned, particularly

in the 1978 Budget proposals. The original Mote paper has now been discarded and a new paper "London Transport - A New Look - The Next Step" has been prepared with the co-operation of the LTE who objected to being left out of the drafting of the original paper. The new paper is now a matter of discussion between the LTE and the Trade Unions.

The whole structure of the plan is based on finance. The Capital Expenditure is to be increased but the Revenue Support for London Transport is to be cut drastically. In the GLC Transport Planning and Policy document submitted to the Government for 1978-83, it shows that the Tories plan to reduce Revenue Support to £25 million a year starting with a reduction of £30 million for 1978/9. For LT to budget on this figure grave doubts are raised about how it can be done: reduced services, cuts in routes and cuts in staff are the main feature of the Tory plans, also a cut in Safety Standards for the Underground.

In the latest "LT News", the LTE propaganda paper, the new chairman of LTE Mr Bennett states: "He did not feel that the financial restrictions on LT were unreasonable; the Capital Expenditure was adequate - although LT might want more. On the Revenue side enough cash was allocated to carry out bus service improvements this year, under the interim bus plan."

This sounds fine from his side of

the fence but, when you read Shelagh Roberts' Budget report for 1978/9 for LT she states the following:

"The Council's policy is to see the present standard of service improved and the scope for substantial reductions in the short term is therefore limited. The main thrust will be needed in 1979 and 1980 when substantial reductions in Revenue Support are in prospect."

From these statements you will see that the LTE are in full accord with the GLC. However, where does this leave the travelling public and the staff who will be forced to endure higher fares, reduced services and loss of jobs?

Obviously from statements like those above the campaign that our Committee has mounted will not be a short one. We are clear in that our task is to counter the Tories for the whole term of their office at County Hall. We would therefore welcome the support of local action groups like the Hackney one for this fight against the massacre of London's public transport. The 256 bus route is only the tip of the iceberg; next November larger alterations to the bus schedules will take place. As for the Underground services the only proposals so far are on the Epping to Ongar service, but plans are being drawn up to introduce changes for this service.

The first action that our Committee proposes is to have a MASS LOBBY of the GLC at County Hall on 16 May. Members of the Committee will be at County Hall from 2.00 pm onwards, but the main Lobby is planned to take place from 5.00 to 6.00 pm so that people coming from work will be able to take part in the Lobby.

It is through united action that we hope to change the Tory policy and

if at all possible make sure that idiotic plans like the original Mote paper never see the light of day again.

Yours fraternally,  
Jim McQuade,  
Secretary,  
Campaign to Improve London Transport,  
8 Lucas House,  
Albion Avenue,  
Wandsworth,  
London SW8 2AD.

### WOMEN'S AID

Dear HPP

I am writing to say that the Hackney refuge for battered women will be opening shortly. There will be one full-time worker, and if any of your women readers have time to give to clear the house and move furniture, they are urgently needed.

We are still in need of furnishings, particularly chests of drawers, wardrobes, tables, dining chairs, curtains, cutlery, etc. If anyone has any of these, in good condition, which they would like to give or sell cheaply to HWA, we would be very grateful.

Please contact Sophie Dick at c/o 138 Calabria Road, London N5, or at work, 986 8111, ext 57.

Yours faithfully  
Sophie Dick.

## UNEMPLOYED PROJECT

Despite the fact that there aren't enough jobs to go round, young unemployed people are encouraged by careers officers and nagged by parents to chase after jobs which don't exist. One would expect them to feel angry at a society which rejects their labour and their desire to work for a reasonable wage. However, the usual response to unemployment is a sense of failure and personal rejection - "There must be something wrong with me".

A project for the young unemployed might be seen as an attempt to contain the anger and frustration which these young people would be justified in expressing. The workers on such projects are expected to channel this frustration into "positive" directions but, at the same time, receive warnings from careers officers about the "danger of making them too comfortable".

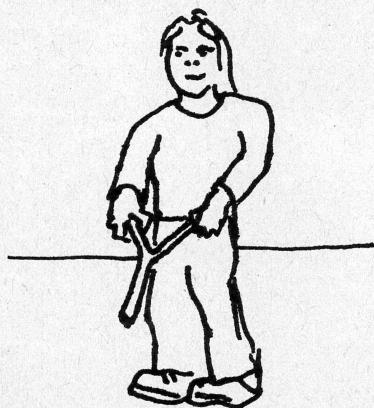
At the Fleet Workshop, the staff reject this warning. Nobody can feel "too comfortable" while they lack self-respect. The Workshop has grown out of an education project initiated by the Community Education worker at Hackney College.

Staffed by a team of part-time teachers and Youth Workers, it opened in January this year in the old Fleetwood Primary School in Stoke Newington High Street.

The staff aim to help unemployed young people to make informed choices about how they can spend their time and where to direct their energies, whether towards job-hunting, studying, or employing ways of using their time which will provide satisfaction and self-respect. Financed by Hackney College and the Youth Service, the Workshop offers daily individual tuition in basic English and Maths. Time is spent looking at

the limited jobs and training courses available in the area and encouraging members to find out more about these.

Over the last few months, the activities have included classes in



Citizens Rights, Afro-Caribbean history, steel drums, art and office skills. There are groups doing cookery, woodwork and "getting around London", and a weekly session where members look at the way they present themselves to others.

Groups have been out to films and plays, for day trips to the country, and we are planning a three day trip to Wales later this month. The Workshop can be used to sit and read, play chess or table tennis or chat.

Publicity for the Workshop has been minimal until now but they are holding an afternoon disco on Thursday 11 May from 2.30 pm and hope that this will encourage people to come in and see what's going on.

Open Mon-Fri 1.30-4.30 pm, early closing Thursday 1.30.

### C.R.C. Budget to be SLASHED ?

It seems likely that Hackney Council will slash the annual grant of Hackney Community Relations Council for the financial year which started on 1 April.

The CRC have applied for a grant of just over £60,000 and the Grants Panel of the Council which met early in April have put off approving the application until after the elections by referring the matter to the Policy Committee of the Council which doesn't meet until June.

The result of this is that a quarter of the financial year will have passed before the CRC knows how much money they have available for that year. This is likely to disrupt the planning of the CRC activities.

But the Council will have got themselves off the hook and saved a few votes by putting off the decision to slash the proposed budget and valuable work of the CRC just before the elections.

Don't let them get away with it - go to election meetings and demand that the candidates give a commitment to supporting in full the CRC's grant application in the coming year.

The Chamber of Commerce has withdrawn its affiliation from the CRC because the CRC is becoming "too political". The Chairman David Dennison said: "The Chamber of Commerce is strictly non-political". Perhaps no-one told him that the man who was Chamber of Commerce representative on the Community Relations Council, Bernard Landsman is standing as Tory candidate in Dalston ... how non-political of him.

## RIGHTS

Many people do not realise that they are entitled to rent and rate rebates - private or council tenants or owner occupiers. This month's "RIGHTS" article tells you how you can go about claiming.

If your rent and/or rates are high in relation to your weekly income, you may be entitled to a rent rebate/allowance and/or a rent rebate. Rent rebates are paid to council or GLC tenants in the form of a reduced rent. Rent allowances are paid to 'private' tenants or tenants of Housing Associations as a 'cash payment'.

Rate rebates are paid to anyone paying rates (not businesses). It doesn't matter if you pay direct to the Council or through a landlord. They are normally given in the form of reduced rates.

The amount of rebate or allowance is worked out on a weekly basis. They are only payable for six months. You must re-apply before the period ends.

You cannot claim a rebate or allowance if you are getting supplementary benefit. You can claim a rebate/allowance if you are only getting a National Insurance Benefit. If you are getting a National Insurance Benefit and Supplementary Benefit, and the amount of Supplementary Benefit is less than your weekly rent and rates, you may be better off claiming a rebate/allowance instead of Supplementary Benefit.

For more information get a leaflet from the Housing Centre in Mare Street. If you are a GLC tenant, you should apply for rent rebate to the District Office in Homer Road E9. Or ask for advice at any of the advice centres listed on page 7.



# HHAG challenges Council

Hackney Housing Action Group which found more than 2000 empty properties in the borough in a survey earlier last year has just completed a thorough survey of one ward, Rectory. In this they found 104 dwellings which were empty.

The Group has now written to the

Borough Chief Housing Officer, Tony Shoults, with a detailed list of the empty properties and requested that the Housing Department act swiftly to make full use of these houses. We print the text of the letter below, along with the list of the empty houses in Rectory Ward.

Dear Mr Shoults

On 12 February I wrote you a letter (and have to date received no reply) which informed you of the formation of a Hackney Housing Action Group who are concerned with the housing service in the borough, and which asked you to indicate the commitment we might expect from the Housing Department to end the scandal of empty property in the borough and to encourage short-life usage of properties.

I suggested to you that such empty property

1. Is to the extent that it could be used or made habitable a gross waste of a community resource.
2. Creates and propagates an increasingly blighted environment in a borough whose physical fabric is to a great extent in a poor state already.
3. Is a resource which if used in an imaginative and enlightened way could save the council and the ratepayers considerable expense through eliminating the use of Bed and Breakfasts as temporary accommodation for the homeless, and through increased rate revenue.

The HHAG would remind you that when compared to the real expense involved in keeping families in Bed and Breakfast accommodation the vast majority of void properties at present outside the council's yardstick for rehabilitation become worthwhile to repair.

We assure you that members of the Housing Action Group are not concerned simply to embarrass the Council, but rather to take an active, responsible part in working to improve conditions in the borough.

To that end, members of the Group have recently completed a survey of Rectory Ward by which we would like to bring your attention to the extent of the problem of empty properties. A survey in 1974 found 74 empty dwellings. In 1976 92 empty dwellings were found in Rectory Ward. Our results found by casual observation 104 houses or parts of houses that neither had agents' boards up nor work in progress. Manifestly the problem is a growing one.

In particular I would like to draw your attention to the following list of properties in Rectory Ward for which we could establish no reason for their being empty. We feel that your Department should explain why each of these properties is empty and furthermore to make all efforts to ensure the re-use of these dwellings.

Amhurst Road: 239,247,249,280,290,  
307,331,333,341,355;

April Street: 106;

Bayston Road: 27;

Benthall Road: 33,35,36,42,55;

Brooke Road: 3,5,6,7,9,61,84,92,94,  
102,105,138,141,148,151,  
156;

Darville Road: 10,14,36,46,54,71;

Downs Road: 4;

Evering Road: 16,32,33,43,108,128,131,  
160,181;

Farleigh Road: 15,16,20,35,42,57,78,  
84,89,92;

Foulden Road: 17,20,73,87,109A;

Hollar Road: 2,10,18;

Jenner Road: 18,20;

Leswin Road: 8,37,76;

Manse Road: 4,38,44,46,48;

Maury Road: 29,32,57,59,64;

Perch Street: 6;

Rectory Road: 1,3,5,7,8,10,12,15,21,  
35,53,66,82,106,128;

Rendlesham Road: 1-13,57,59,119;

Rendlesham House: 3;

Shacklewell Lane: 81,103,123;

Shacklewell Road: 31;

Shacklewell Row: 23;

Stellman Close: 29,53,84;

Stoke Newington High Street: 12,30,90,  
110,112;

Stoke Newington Road: 4,26-34,64,70;

Somerford Estate: 17,33,40A,47A;

Sydney Road: 24,58,67.

In general we would like to pose two further questions:

1. Can we expect the Council to increase their efforts in ensuring our housing stock is made better use of by the elimination of dwellings left needlessly empty?
2. Will the Council be more prepared to work with independent groups and co-operatives who may wish to use short-life property under licence?

Hackney Housing Action Group

## OAPs and Partnership

Under Partnership Hackney will receive £14 million over the next three years. The problems of pensioners have been named as a priority in the spending of this money.

The Partnership Committee is actively encouraging the involvement of local groups in decisions about how this money is spent. It is therefore very important for pensioners to know what is going on and to make use of the opportunities to let their views be heard.

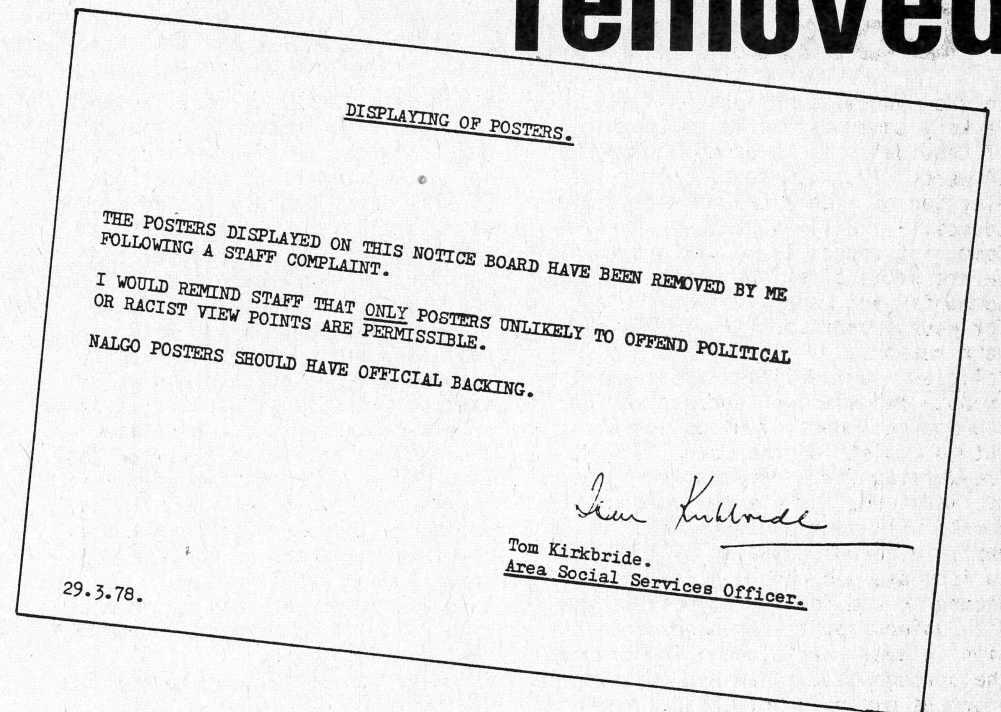
Hackney Task Force has designed a course specially to talk about the issues of Partnership and the action

that pensioners might be able to take. There will be one or two speakers on each topic every week with time for discussion. Refreshments will be served. All pensioners very welcome.

All sessions are at 10.30 am on Wednesdays starting 26 April and topics for discussion will be: An introduction to Partnership; Housing; Environment and Transport; Leisure, Recreation and Education; Health and Social Services and How Will Partnership help Pensioners?

The course takes place at 34 Dalston Lane, E8, 254 1620.

# Anti-racist poster removed



Following Hackney branch of NALGO's (the local government officers' union) decision to sponsor the Anti-Nazi League and to use its propaganda, ANL posters were displayed on union notice boards throughout the Council's offices.

The Borough Librarian, Mr Arnold Long, announced that no such propaganda was to travel to and from libraries in the Council's vans.

In an area Social Services office, a non-NALGO NF sympathizer complained about the posters and the area officer removed all anti-racist posters from the union notice board and pinned the above notice in its place.

When confronted by NALGO stewards, he agreed that the posters could go back up when confirmed as official by our branch secretary.

However, the damage was done. We are serving a multi-racial community and for an area Social Services officer to defend racist view points is unacceptable.

The matter has been raised in NALGO and our Councillors will be approached also.

In fairness though we must mention that following a similar staff complaint at Hackney Town Hall, the Town Clerk ruled that Anti-Nazi League posters should stay up.

## SHRINKING THE UNIFORM GRANT

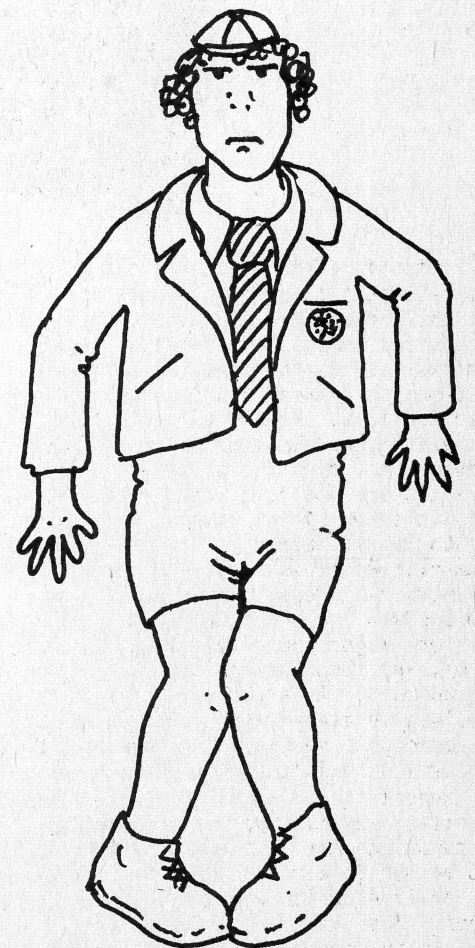
It has come to our attention that the ILEA proposes to make changes in the School Uniform Grant and Necessitous Clothing Scheme - the schemes which assist parents with the cost of providing school clothing for their children. Examination of this unpublicised new scheme reveals that the changes are merely a disguise for yet more cuts in spending. It is not surprising, therefore, that the ILEA are reluctant to expose their new plans - our information was leaked from an internal memo to Educational Welfare Service Staff. The changes will mean reductions in the amounts awarded; a serious increase in the time permitted between claims, and payments in the form of vouchers instead of cash.

The memo states that the Clothing Allowance is to be "awarded at age 5 (£15), age 7 (£15), age 9 (£15), age 11 (£35), 13 (£35), age 15 (£30)" and that "the allowance will be given to parents in the form of books of vouchers which can be spent at any retailer who is willing to accept them".

This means that - in a time of increasing costs - the present maximum allowance will be reduced from £40 to those stated above (one could spend the proposed 9 year old allowance on shoes (£8) and a coat (£7.29) at present High Street prices) and that the interval between claims will be extended from six months to two years and that in changing the form of the allowance from cash to vouchers, the stigma associated with such claims will be increased, as well as the choice of clothes restricted, since those shops 'willing to accept' the vouchers will undoubtedly be limited.

The new scheme is to be introduced

from 3 July - we recommend that all parents eligible make their claims before 30 June when the present



scheme ends - but be warned to be prepared for a fight since the EWS staff have been instructed also to supply necessitous clothing on an emergency basis only!



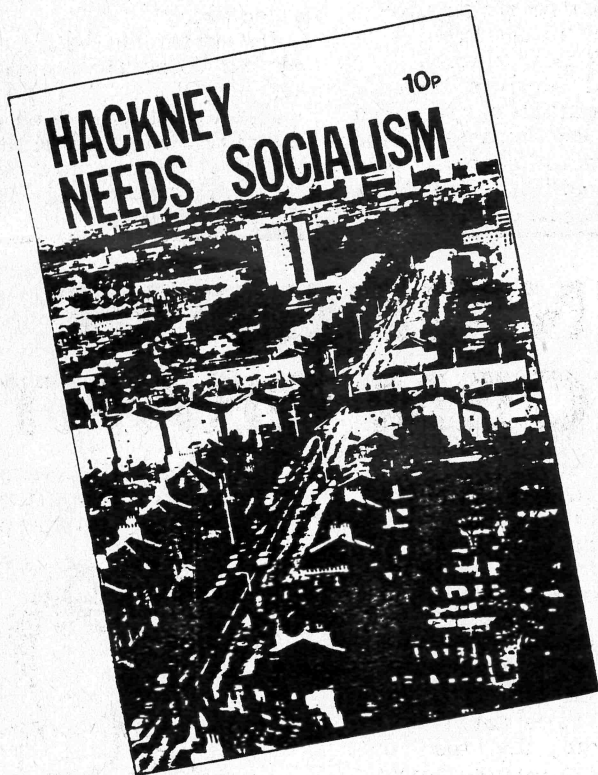
## Communist

In the Council elections on 4 May Hackney Communist Party is standing 17 candidates in 15 of the borough's 24 wards. Our aim is to secure the election of a Left Labour and Communist Council - ideally 43 Labour and 17 Communist councillors. In practice, we are working for the maximum Communist and Labour votes. We ask for your support for the following main reasons.

**Policies** - Our policies are summarised in both the election address and our new booklet 'Hackney Needs Socialism - Put Communists on the Council'. We are working for a democratically controlled Council where the borough's people will control decisions. We want a vigorous campaign by the Council to increase job opportunities in Hackney - and for the Council to work with unions for trade union organisation in every workplace. Children in the borough need a new deal with an enormous expansion of child care facilities, children's entertainment, youth facilities and democracy in schools. The Council must take a lead in improving the environment in Hackney - ending the scandal of the empty homes and derelict shopping centres - making realities of Shoreditch and Shepherdess Parks. The Council should

popularise socialist ideas amongst the people throughout the year. For instance, in 1976 we wrote and sold 3,000 copies of a detailed booklet about Hackney called Hackney Needs Socialism. Every month we put on a variety of cultural and popular political events as well as hold public meetings, distribute tens of thousands of leaflets and sell the Morning Star. In short, we organise, we agitate and we educate (ourselves, as well as others - Communists don't claim to have all the answers and to be always right). This record compares favourably with every other political group in the borough. There are of course many other issues where we believe we haven't done nearly enough. But this is because of lack of numbers - not lack of commitment. No other party has done more.

**Strategy for Socialism** - Communists see the achievement of socialism in Britain - and in Hackney - as a process of struggle. We need involvement, we need to fight the enemies of working people, we need to win local state organisations for socialist policies - not bureaucratic ones. To do this we need unity, unity of the left, unity of the working people,



be in the forefront of the fight against racialism, decent homes for all the borough's citizens and for rights for women, new education opportunities, an improved health service, good public transport and better welfare services. We are the only party contesting the election which has such progressive, fighting policies. These policies are not just words - they are backed up by our record.

**The Communist Record** - Hackney Communist Party is small - with only 300 members. Despite this we have members who are consistently active in every major community group, trade union, and campaign against racism in the borough. As a party we have been involved in every major struggle of the borough's people. Our members do not try to 'infiltrate' or take over. We concentrate on working in a serious, committed way to involve more people in campaigns for positive advance - a and to put forward the detailed plans and policies which would mean progress. This is true of Communist work in the areas of people's organisations in the borough from the Hackney Fun Festival to the shop stewards committees. On top of this we spend time trying to

unity between all oppressed by modern capitalism. In the local elections we need to elect Communist councillors who will go on campaigning - not councillors who just disappear after election time which is what happened to the majority of Labour elected last time. Communist councillors would be valuable allies to all fighting for improvements. Electing Communist councillors would push Hackney politics to the left and open the road to the creation of a trail blazing Left Labour and Communist Council which would work in close co-operation with the borough's people - rather than as remote technocrats. No other organisation, or even the Left trend in the Labour Party has such a washed out democratic socialist strategy.

So, we ask you to vote Communist if you have the chance and to give your remaining votes to Labour candidates. After the elections, whatever the results, we look forward to working with you for progress in Hackney - hopefully a Hackney where our struggle is assisted by big Communist and Labour votes, the election of Communist councillors and the creation of a Left Labour and Communist Council.

HACKNEY PEOPLES

## THE COUNCIL

With the coming Council elections on 4 May we are printing a few points on the aims and claims of various parties. This is because with growing National Front attention, we feel it is important to see what the other options are.

DON'T BE

## The National Front

Two recent cases of racist attacks show the way in which the National Front and their fascist sympathisers harass black and Asian families in Hackney.

A Sikh family living on the Morningside estate have been attacked 15 times in four months. Paving stones have been thrown through their windows, lighted newspapers pushed through their letterbox, milk bottles have been smashed and attempts have been made to break down their front door. The family have been transferred from the estate after only four months tenancy of their flat (regulations demand that transfers cannot normally be made until after six months tenancy.)

And recently a mixed couple living in Dalston came home from holiday to find that their entire flat had been smashed up and racist slogans had been daubed on the walls.

Doubtless many other cases similar to these never get reported to the police or other authorities simply because of fear, the fear that is caused by the refusal of fascist thugs to let individuals live their lives in peace.

But if you think that you're all right because you're not black just read on.

☛

**Workers** - "If you hear any more whining about the workers, tell the whiners to get the hell out of the National Front!" - John Kingsley Read, ex-chairperson National Front.

☛

**Socialists** - "The National Front will sweep to power over the dead bodies of Communists" - John Tyndall. Before you say to yourself "I'm not a Communist," remember that Tyndall called the Archbishop of Canterbury 'a red'.

ARE YOU GOING  
TO VOTE FOR  
THIS

STOP THE RACIST H

**Women** - "The feminine role is principally one of wife, mother and homemaker." - Spearhead, NF paper.

☛

**Young people** - "If the NF come to power we will whip juvenile delinquents until the skin comes off their backs." J Kingsley Read.

☛

**Christians** - "The biggest sweep out of all is going to be in the Church!" - John Tyndall.

☛

**Gays** - "We are going to sort out you Commies and queers. When the NF

## Liberal

Meanwhile the Liberals are also in on the act. They resent the fact that all 60 seats in the Council are at present held by Labour Party members, and blame them for the bad state of affairs in Hackney. Their attention is particularly focussed on transport and planning blight. There is room for considerable improvement in services, especially train services, at not too great expense. The Shoreditch manifesto (the only one we have) also aims to "bring back genuinely local government to Shoreditch", to loosen centralized control of Hackney from the Town Hall where they grossly neglect Shoreditch and its needs. (Too right!)



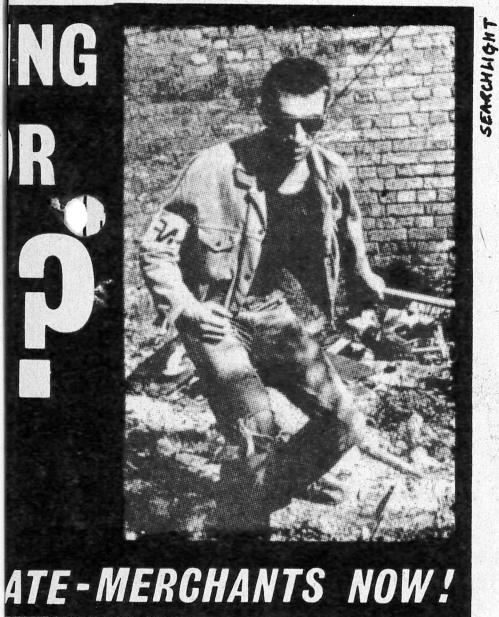


PRESS PRESENTS

# L ELECTIONS

Actual candidates wrote the Labour and Communist articles and we wrote the rest. Due to natural bias, none of us had a Conservative manifesto from which to write about. But anyway, we don't feel they have a lot to offer to Hackney people.

## FOOLED! You are NAZIS



the great clean-up comes, to implement the final solution against these sub-human elements by means of the gas chamber system." - Spearhead, 1965.



The NF don't think that people are capable of making important decisions "We oppose the method whereby the man in the street is called upon to make judgements on aspects of affairs of which he has no understanding." - John Tyndall.



Hitler abolished democracy, so will the National Front.

The NF is a nazi party. "Hitler put Germany on its feet. We and fellow Nazis will do the same for England." Martin Webster, Chief Organiser, NF.



And if you think that that comment was made in a moment of rashness maybe you haven't seen the daubing on a wall in St Paul's Road at the edge of Hackney. It reads "British Movement - Happy Birthday AH April 20th 88." Happy Birthday to Adolf Hitler from the NF's allies, the British Movement and Column 88, both committed to hatred and violence against anyone weaker than themselves. The battle against the NF and their allies and racist and fascist policies won't end with this or any other election.

Keep in touch with the continuing anti-fascist campaign by contacting Hackney Committee Against Racism, c/o 245 Mare Street, E8.

gets in in this country, you lot had better run for it." - Letter from an NF member.



Jews - John Tyndall has told me that his plans are to use the immigration issue to gain power, and then to get rid of the race he hates most - the Jews. - John Kingsley Read.



Finally a warning to all their opponents: "With the number of murdering asocials and perverts on the increase, as a dire result of our sick and democratic society, there will be an unanswerable case when the day for

## Labour

The three Hackney Labour Parties are contesting all seats in the coming council elections and a number of punters have predicted that a Labour council will be returned. But what can we expect from a new Labour council?

A number of the more senior councillors are standing down at this election to be replaced by younger blood. New younger, socialist councillors can only mean changes, and hopefully changes for the better. The veteran chairperson of the housing management committee is also standing down so perhaps housing will now be run differently in Hackney.

A blue print of things to come is contained in the manifesto of the three Hackney Labour Parties - 'Labour Cares About People and Progress in Hackney.' This time all members of the three parties have been consulted in drawing up the manifesto and this democracy is also a major theme of the manifesto itself. A Labour Council will consult the electorate, through its organised groups, on major issues. The opening words of the manifesto state:

'We feel that making information on which the Council bases its policies more open to the public and increasing public consultation is an essential part of socialism, just as the concept of planning has always been central to socialism and to Labour Party policy and programmes.'

The manifesto outlines the many problems of deprivation which we are all too familiar with and which Hackney suffers from. Against this background socialist solutions are

The Council will support the re-opening of the North London railway between Highbury and Stratford.

### RECREATION

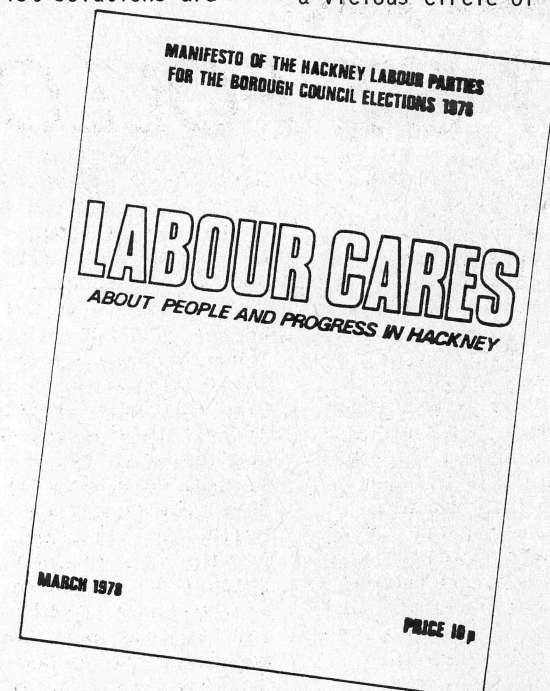
Recreational facilities will be improved and plans include three major new swimming pools and a large community and sports centre for each constituency.

### HOUSING

'Good housing', states the manifesto, 'is a basic right of all people and it is our aim as a socialist party to fulfil this right. The Labour Party will identify priority needs and meet them.' To tackle the worst housing conditions in the private sector the Council will commit itself to an extensive municipalisation policy. The objectives of the tenants' charter movement will also be supported and the direct labour force increased. Tory GLC policy to transfer its housing responsibilities to the boroughs will not be accepted for Hackney. The three parties are concerned that a concentration of identifiable ethnic groups has grown up on the estates and this situation will be actively remedied. Ways of tackling homelessness will be speeded up and the use of bed and breakfast accommodation minimised.

### SOCIAL SERVICES

'Hackney, like many other working class areas, cannot solve its problems by itself', say the Labour Parties. 'These can only be solved by a full blooded policy of socialism, to break a vicious circle of poverty.' Hackney



in turn outlined. These are the policies a Labour Council should implement.

### EMPLOYMENT

The Labour Council will bring jobs back to Hackney, ease restrictions on industrial development, and help the expansion of office jobs. Municipal industries and workers' co-operatives will be supported and encouraged. Attention will be given to the employment needs of women with families, such as accessible location, choice of part time or full time work, and day care provision of under fives. The importance of retraining is also recognised.

### ENVIRONMENT

Major plans for improving the physical fabric of Hackney include improvements to Hoxton Street, Shoreditch, Dalston and Stoke Newington High Street. In making these improvements communities will not be destroyed but preserved. Land which cannot be developed in the short term will be put to community uses, such as play space and allotments. Public transport will be improved and urban motorways opposed.

Labour Council pledges itself to fight not only for socialism but to also provide the social services essential to meet the needs of Hackney's people. Social services policies emphasise the need for care in the community rather than in institutions.

### RACE RELATIONS

Ethnic communities are an integral part of Hackney's population and this area has always provided a home for immigrant groups starting from Jews and now including Asians, West Indians, Greeks and Cypriots. These groups make a valuable contribution to the community in social, economic and cultural terms. They also have special needs which a Labour council will cater for. The Council will oppose the activities of all racist groups and assist minority groups in their struggle for equality.

The manifesto outlines how it cares for both Hackney's people and progress. These are some of the policies which the Labour candidates will be fighting for in the campaign running up to the borough elections on 4 May.

The manifesto is available from the three Labour Parties; price 10p.





# What women want

WOMEN! WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM HACKNEY COUNCIL?

This question introduced a leaflet put out by Hackney North and Stoke Newington Labour Party advertising a public meeting on women's issues in the election campaign. The leaflet explained that the Women's Section of that Labour Party had invited some Labour candidates from wards in the three Hackney constituencies to give their ideas about how the Council should serve the women of Hackney, and invited women and women's organisations to come and give their views to the candidates.

This is exactly what happened in a noisy, lively, excitable but friendly meeting on 19 April in Stamford Hill Library, when about 70 people turned up.

What women wanted: a range of demands came from the floor of the meeting, spontaneous yet overall consistent. It is clear that a majority of women are very clear what their needs and wishes are, and are determined to be heard.

They want far more day nurseries, not only because women often want and need to go out to work, but also they want the option of part-time places for the purpose of lessening the isolation, lack of stimulation and social contact of the children and the parents or minders who stay home

to look after them.

They want more sports and recreational facilities for children and youth, and after-school care and leisure activities in school premises after school hours.

They want the old Fire Station by Stoke Newington Common to be put into use as a community nursery and Community meeting and recreation centre, immediately, under the control of the local Community Association. This demand was raised loud and clear by members of that Association. One woman said there were huge numbers of children being minded in their area, often illegally and they had a waiting list of over 60 for their proposed nursery without even advertising for it!

They want community laundries, cheaper than laundrettes.

They want more job and training opportunities and better working conditions which, together with the more nurseries asked for would alleviate the situation of our thousands of homeworkers and out-workers.

They want sick pay to allow parents to stay at home with sick children and dependants. Dinah Morley, Haggerston, said that this must be fought for nationally.

They want day care abortion clinic for the area and better family planning services. The Council to

rescind its decision to find houses for "Let Live".

They want fewer children taken into care. More support for families as well as more nurseries would relieve the situation. An end to the idea that women should be left to cope whatever their circumstances and that it is their fault if they have children in the first place. What is needed is shared responsibility for children.

They want less sexual and racial discrimination in the Council's own employment policies. There is only one woman director and lower grades of employees tend to be less well graded than similar posts in other local authorities.

All these demands came up in the meeting, and the panel of candidates gave their views on them. There was a very large measure of agreement among all present and the candidates pointed out that the Labour manifesto worked out for these council elections democratically in the three Labour parties was a very progressive manifesto and would allow candidates to fight on all the issues raised.

The panel was John Sweeney (Defoe South), George Armstrong (Springfield), Peter Kahn (Defoe South), Patrick Kodikara (New River), Dinah Morley (Haggerston) and Dora Fenton (New River).

They all committed themselves to

the manifesto but John Sweeney said it would be an uphill struggle to get such policies implemented and even though Labour candidates pledge themselves to such policies, they will rely on campaigns and direct action where necessary going on outside the Council in the community to help push these policies forward.

This seemed to be the main political outcome of the meeting. Gillian Wilding, Vice-Chairperson of the Hackney North Labour Party, pointed out in the introduction of the meeting that the political situation in the country as a whole and the world economic situation meant that Councillors even if elected on the basis of representing the working class will find themselves in a pincer-situation squeezed between the interests of the state and the interests of the working class. The Partnership arrangement which Hackney is sharing with Islington is certainly bringing a little light to the scene, but:

"We in the Labour Party, and our Labour candidates, this time are not saying 'Vote Labour and leave it to us'. We are saying, 'Vote Labour but carry on organising yourselves and be prepared to fight.'"

All the candidates on the platform undertook to come out and join any marches, pickets or other actions in defence of working class interest if they are elected.

## COL. B JOHNSTONE FLEET ST FOLLOWS HPP

Well done the British press! At last the Mirror, Sun, Mail, Express, Guardian, Morning Star and Times have followed the lead of papers like Hackney People's Press and published the name of the mysterious Colonel B. All at once on Friday 21 April the ride of Fleet Street reported the louse of Commons scenes when four Labour MPs revealed that it was none other than Colonel Hugh A Johnstone, BE, an officer in the Royal Signals Regiment. Johnstone was a witness in the committal proceedings against Crispin Aubrey, John Berry and Duncan Campbell, who have been charged under the Official Secrets Act and face 14 years in jail because they merely had conversation in February last year. Various issues of HPP since then have reported the details of the case, which occurred because John

Berry, once a Royal Signals lance corporal, contacted the committee set up to protest against the deportation of the American writers Philip Agee and Mark Hosenball. Crispin Aubrey, a "Time Out" journalist and ex-HPP worker, and Duncan Campbell, a freelance technical journalist, went to interview Berry. After the interview they were arrested on the orders of Britain's secret police, MI5, who had learnt of the meeting by an illegal telephone tap. In November they were committed to the Old Bailey for trial this coming autumn, and the main prosecution witness was Colonel B, whose name was not revealed to the general public. Unfortunately for him, his army number was - and two magazines, Peace News and the Leveller used tremendous journalistic talents in deducing his identity, simply by consulting the Army list which is available in any reference library! The Attorney-General thereupon threatened them, and the National Union of Journalists' newspaper which repeated the name, with prosecution for contempt of court. Many other papers up and down the country, including HPP, also published the name and then, suddenly, so did our courageous "free" press. Detective Sergeant Flicking of the Special Branch, who has been investigating the case, will be wearing out a lot of shoe leather in the next few weeks.

However the serious nature of the Aubrey-Berry-Campbell case must not be overlooked. Every step that the State has taken in this case has been more incredible than the step before: the deportations of Agee and Hosenball, the arrests of Aubrey, Berry and Campbell, the charges under Section 1 (the "spy" clause) of the Official Secrets Act, the contempt of court proceedings for naming Colonel B. Each of these steps has been taken because the State does not want the people to know what kind of activities it gets up to, in our name. The Government has a vast secret apparatus

which we don't know about and which even MPs can't discuss. Soldiers all over the world are using "dirty tricks" to uphold what is supposed to be a free and democratic country. 5,000 people are in the British secret police, MI5, keeping files on us all - we don't even know - officially - they exist, and even our elected representatives can't question their highly questionable behaviour.

The ABC Committee is organising a number of events through the summer. Contact them c/o 374 Grays Inn Road, London WC1.

## New play

Following last year's successful tour of "No Pasaran" Free Form Arts Trust is presenting "For One Night Only", by Rony Robinson and Free Form Arts Trust Ltd.

It is a brand new show with songs, dance, games and entertainment. The story of a man's search that takes him from the dreaming spires of Oxford to the steaming jungles of Africa; and from the dusty deserts of Colorado to the public bar of the White Tiger at Hackney Wick.

The show will be of interest to leaders of Community Centres, Youth Clubs, Community Associations, Tenants Associations and teachers of English, Drama and Social Studies.

It lasts approximately two hours, and is designed to fit into most halls.

If you would like to book this new show then two free previews are being held at Hoxton Hall on 2 May and the Montefiore Community Centre, Deal Street, E1 on 5 May.

The show will be available for booking during May, and again in October for a London tour.

Details from Free Form, 38 Dalston Lane, E8, 249 3394.

## MAY EVENTS

We are sorry that our usual list of events is shorter this month. This was due to pressure on space because of the Council elections.

### Music

5 May 8.00 pm  
An evening of Latin American music and dancing from Chile, at Centerprise.

5 May 8.00 pm  
Music Hall: Rita Triesman and Gaslight Gaieties at Hoxton Hall.

11 May 2.30 pm  
Afternoon disco at the Fleet Workshop in Stoke Newington High Street. Come along and see what's going on.

12 May 8.00 pm  
Bubble Band Show at Hoxton Hall.

### Theatre

19 May 8.00 pm  
"Fool's Paradise". Covent Garden Community Theatre at Hoxton Hall.

24-28 May 8.00 pm  
"Splendour and Death of Joaguin Murieta" at the Latin America Centre, Hoxton Square.

26 May 8.00 pm  
Word and Action at Hoxton Hall.

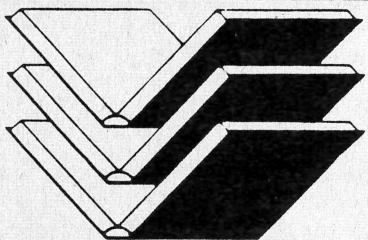
26 May 8.00 pm  
Centre Stage present "Jam" and "In Exile with an African Head" at Centerprise.

### Meetings

13 May 2.00 pm  
Legalise Cannabis Protest Picnic at Hyde Park near Speaker's Corner.

15 May 7.30  
Centerprise Co-op meeting - for all users to come and discuss the project.

## BOOK JUNCTION



84 DALSTON LANE LONDON E8

We stock a vast range of general fiction, political literature, children's books and have a second hand section.

We also have international newspapers, magazines and pamphlets.

We will order any book for you

249 3657

Open Mon-Fri 9am-8pm  
Sat 9am-5.30pm



# information

All listings on this page are inserted absolutely FREE.  
For the next issue, just send us your information by

FRIDAY 19th MAY

Write to Hackney People's Press, c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, London E.8.

## Community, Tenants and Pensioners Groups

**HACKNEY PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION**  
34 Dalston Lane, E8  
Advice service on Tuesday and Thursdays from 10.30 to 4pm. Tea Bar Monday to Friday 10.30 to 4pm.

**TASK FORCE**  
34 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 1620  
Free advice for pensioners in Hackney. Odd jobs and visits in N16 and N4 only. Pensioners' activities and neighbourhood care in N5.

**HACKNEY ASSOCIATION FOR WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE**  
22 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 0715

**HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT**  
74 Downham Road N1.  
Social and advice centre, aimed particularly at black people.  
Tuesday 10am-10pm  
Thursday 10am-4.30pm  
Friday 10am-10pm

**OFF CENTRE**  
25 Hackney Grove, E8. Tel. 985 8566  
Advice for young people between 13 and 25 with any problems.  
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm (open until 8.30pm on Tuesdays).

**FRIENDS ANONYMOUS SERVICE**  
Friendship House, 27 Hackney Grove, E8.  
24 hour telephone service with people always willing to listen and act.  
986 2233 (24 hours)  
35 0973 (office hours)  
96 8146 (office hours)

**FEDERATION OF HACKNEY TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS**  
Represents borough, GLC and private tenants throughout Hackney. Contact joint secretaries for details: Bob Darke, 154 Trelawney Estate, Paragon Road, E9 and Steve Jacobs, c/o ALHE, 17 Victoria Park Square, E2 (981 1221).

**HACKNEY COMMUNITY HOUSING ACTION GROUP**  
Concerned about the blight of homes left empty for long periods in Hackney and working to get them used. Contact Jon Webber, Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

**HOWARD LEAGUE FOR PENAL REFORM**  
East London branch, c/o John Bagge, 90 Fawcett Estate, Clapton Common, E5. Campaigns for advancement of education in constructive penal and social policies.

**HACKNEY GINGERBREAD**  
Group for one parent families. Meets every Monday at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16. Creche available. Contact Teresa Blackhall, 729 1647 for details.

**HOMERTON GINGERBREAD**  
Group for one parent families. Meets every other Friday at the Wally Foster Centre. Contact 985 3972 for details.

**HACKNEY UNITED TENANTS ASSOCIATION**  
c/o 35 Finnere House, Woodberry Down, N4.

## Women

**HACKNEY ABORTION CAMPAIGN**  
Meetings fortnightly at 29 Parkholme Road, E8. Contact 249 3768 for details.

**WOMEN'S CENTRE**  
1 Cazenove Road, N16.  
Advice, creche, children's clothes swap shop, beginners photography, crafts, yoga, relaxation, consciousness raising groups, food co-op, alternative medicine, self-defence. Further information from 806 6664. All women welcome.

**RAPE CRISIS CENTRE**  
Tel. 340 6145. 24 hour information and advice.

**HACKNEY SOCIALIST FEMINIST GROUP**  
Meet alternate Mondays at the Factory, Matthias Road, N 16, at 7.30pm. Contact Pat 254 5821 or Harriet 254 6208.

**HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL WOMEN'S SUB COMMITTEE**  
Re-formed recently. Meets once a month. Contact Judy Newcombe, 254 0685 for details. All women and men welcome.

## Health

**CITY AND HACKNEY COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL**  
Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, E2. Tel. 739 6308/8351.  
The public's voice in the NHS—provides advice, takes up your complaints and criticisms. Open meeting on 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm. Publishes HEALTH IN HACKNEY: a comprehensive FREE guide to health facilities and services in the area.

**HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN HACKNEY**  
Advice, ideas, information. Trying to contact all families in district with a handicapped child. Contact Ann Purdon, 48 Mount Pleasant Lane, E5. Tel. 808 8438.

**THE BIRTH CENTRE**  
188 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 251 4076.  
Information, advice, lectures and seminars on birth at home and in hospital.  
Open evening every Wednesday 8pm. 25p.

**EAST LONDON WOMEN'S HEALTH GROUP**  
c/o 116 Albion Drive, E8.

**STOKE NEWINGTON HEALTH GROUP**  
Local people interested in all matters concerned with health. Contact Alan Clarke, 21 Kynaston Road, N.16. 254 3277.

## Community Centres

**CENTERPRISE**  
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.  
Bookshop and office hours:  
Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6.30pm.  
Coffee bar and meeting room hours:  
Tuesday-Friday 10am-9.30pm.  
Saturday 10am-5.30pm.  
FACILITIES:  
Coffee bar; bookshop; advice, information and contacts for individuals and groups. Typewriters can be used free, duplicating at cost price. Ask in General Office.  
ADVICE CENTRE:  
Legal and welfare advice session on Thursdays 6.30-7.30pm. Contact Jon Webber or ring 254 9634.  
READING CENTRE:  
For adults who find it hard to read or write. Contact Sue Shrapnel or ring 254 9635.  
PUBLISHING PROJECT:  
Publishing books by people who live in Hackney. Contact Ken Worpole or ring 254 9634.

**WALLY FOSTER CENTRE**  
Homerton Road, E9. Tel. 985 3972.  
Community Centre with many activities:  
SOCIAL SERVICES ADVICE CENTRE: every weekday 9am-5pm.  
ADULT LITERACY CLASSES:  
Every Monday at 7pm.  
Also playgroup, mothers and toddlers group, pensioners lunch club, school welfare advice, youth club for 5-8 year olds, Kung Fu and juvenile dance classes.  
See also ADVICE and NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGLISH CLASSES listings.

**THE FACTORY**  
107 Matthias Road, N16 (next to Newington Green School). Tel. 249 3066.  
Runs mothers and toddlers clubs, sewing classes, English classes, youth club, childminders drop-in group (creche provided), after school club, arts and crafts club, pensioners lunch club, food co-op and an Indian dance class.  
Contact them for further details.

**THE FAMILY CENTRE**  
50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.  
Information and help for all community problems. Cooking, washing, creche facilities.  
Mothers and toddlers group on Thursdays, 1.30-3.30pm (homeworkers especially welcome).  
"Encourage your child to read" class on Mondays, 5.30-7.30pm. Supplementary school now operating. Classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Contact them for further information.  
Also see ADVICE and Neighbourhood English Classes and Gingerbread under COMMUNITY GROUPS listings on this page.

**HOXTON HALL**  
128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 4901.  
Runs playgroup, pensioners lunch club, legal advice centre, after-school junior club and writers' workshop as well as evening classes in shoe repairing, dressmaking, pottery, crafts, old-time dancing and singing. Also Women's Discussion Group and the Hoxton Drama Group.  
Many events take place in the theatre each month—see the EVENTS AND MEETINGS section. Also see ADVICE listing.

**LATIN AMERICA CENTRE**  
17 Hoxton Square, N1. Tel. 739 2910.  
Social and cultural centre for Latin Americans and British people interested in Latin America.

## Ecology

**WASTE PAPER etc.**  
Take old newspaper, magazines, cardboard, clean rags and car batteries to RESEARCH INTO CHILD BLINDNESS, Drysdale Street, N1 (just off Hoxton Street) and get given FREE Green Shield Stamps! 2 stamps per pound of paper.  
Monday-Friday 7am-4pm.  
All the paper YOU take in goes to help blind children to see.

**SERA (Socialist and Environmental Resources Association)**  
North East London branch meets regularly. Contact Jackie Hutson, 17 Mentmore Terrace, E8.

**HACKNEY FRIENDS OF THE EARTH**  
Local group recently formed. For details ring Jim Read, 802 0122

**RECYCLED PAPER**  
High quality recycled papers (duplicating, printing, writing or card), personalised stationery and silk screen printing available from Regenesis, 32 Warwick Road, N 18. Tel. 249 8367.

## Workshops

**THE WORKSHOP**  
81 Lenthall Road, E8. Tel. 254 3082.  
Learn to print posters, T shirts etc. at non-commercial rates. Cost of materials only.  
Open Tuesday-Sunday 1pm-8pm.

**COMET WORKSHOP**  
Halcomb Street, N1. Tel. 729 0936.  
Learn sewing, macrame, toy-making, woodwork. Creche available, toy library. Tea and coffee. Open every weekday.

## Advice

Free legal advice on housing, landlord and tenant, employment, social security, welfare, matrimonial, immigration and discrimination problems can be obtained from the following centres:

**CENTERPRISE**  
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.  
THURSDAYS 6.30-7.30pm.

**HOXTON HALL**  
128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 5431.  
WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

**KINGSMEAD**  
Wally Foster Centre, Homerton High Street, E9. Tel. 985 3804.  
TUESDAYS 7-8pm.

**SNAGS**  
102 Manor Road, N16. Tel. 800 3770.  
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm. (802 7949).

**ALLEN ROAD**  
12 Allen Road, N16.  
THURSDAYS 7-8pm.

Advice can also be obtained from:

**HACKNEY ADVICE BUREAU & LAW CENTRE**  
236-8 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8446.  
Open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm (7.30 on Thursdays).  
Legal aid and advice on housing, rents, repairs and employment problems.

**CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAUX**  
1-11 Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 4654.  
106 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 253 2155.

**HACKNEY COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL**  
245 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 985 5244.  
TUESDAYS 7-8.30pm.  
Immigration, discrimination, housing law and other problems.

**THE FAMILY CENTRE**  
50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.  
Information and help in all community problems. Cooking, washing, creche facilities. Open all day.

**HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE**  
302-4 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8123.  
Helps with all housing problems. Repairs, rebates, landlord/tenant, council/tenant.

**HACKNEY CENTRAL INFORMATION BUREAU**  
Town Hall, Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 3123.

**HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY ADVICE CENTRE**  
5 Stamford Hill, N16.  
Advice and information on legal, financial, welfare, housing, social security and personal problems.  
FRIDAYS 7-8pm.

**RECTORY HOUSING AND WELFARE ADVICE CENTRE**  
Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N16.  
Help with housing, employment, health and social security and community and race relations problems.  
SUNDAYS 10.30am-12.00 noon.

Advice can also be obtained from HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT, OFF CENTRE and FRIENDS ANONYMOUS. See Community Groups listing on this page.

For MPs and councillors Advice surgeries see LABOUR PARTY under POLITICAL GROUPS listing on this page.

## Food

**TOWARDS JUPITER**  
191 Mare Street E8. 985 5394  
Wholefood shop also selling books and crafts.

**FOOD FOR ALL**  
3 Cazenove Road, N16. Tel. 806 4138.  
Wholefood shop, also selling books and crafts. All food carries levy to support the women's centre next door (see WOMEN) and proposed school at 5 Cazenove Road.

## Education

**SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION**  
83 Eleanor Road, E8.  
Contact Beverly Bowes for details.

**ENGLISH FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6.30pm at Latin America Centre, 17 Hoxton Square, N1.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGLISH CLASSES**  
Held at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 254 1193. Monday-Friday 10.30am-4.30pm. Held at the Wally Foster Centre, E9. Tel. 985 3972. Every Wednesday 1.30pm.

**ADULT LITERACY SCHEMES**  
For details of adult literacy courses in your area contact:  
Carol Morris, BETHNAL GREEN AEI, 229 Bethnal Green Road, E2. 739 7790.  
Pam Lorenz, CLAPTON AEI, Brooke House, Kenninghall Road, E5. 985 9646.  
Sue Grandfield, HACKNEY COLLEGE, 254 7763  
Mr G.L. Harding, HACKNEY LIBRARIES, Shoreditch Library, Pitfield Street N1. 739 6981  
Sue Shrapnel, HACKNEY READING CENTRE, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. 254 9635.  
Ms J Hewes, HIGHBURY MANOR AEI, Jack Ashley School, Blackstock Road, N4. 226 9190.  
John Rake, HOXTON HALL, 128a Hoxton Street N1. 739 5431.

## Men

**DALSTON MEN'S GROUP**  
Contact Pete, 39 Parkhome Road, E8. Tel. 249 3072.

**EAST LONDON/BRIXTON MEN'S GROUP**  
Contact Paul, 12 Montague Road, E8. Tel. 254 9497.

**EAST LONDON MEN'S CENTRE**  
19 Redmans Road, E1. Tel. 790 2454.

## Political Groups

**HACKNEY LABOUR PARTY**  
**HACKNEY NORTH AND STOKE NEWINGTON**  
Constituents advice service at 7pm every Friday at 5 Stamford Hill, N16 when local councillors are present. David Weitzmann, MP, also runs advice service every other Sunday at 11am. Ken Livingstone, GLC councillor, has advice service generally on 4th Thursday of each month.  
Details from 5 Stamford Hill, N16. Tel. 800 7430.  
**HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY**  
**YOUNG SOCIALISTS:** for details contact secretary, Mumtaz Khan, c/o 5 Stamford Hill, N16.

**HACKNEY SOUTH & SHOREDITCH**  
Constituents advice service at 7.30pm. every Friday at 96 Dalston Lane, E8. Ron Brown, MP, available 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Margaret Morgan, GLC Councillor, available 1st Friday of each month. Local councillors every Friday. Advice service also operates at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Blatchley Street, N1, at 7pm, on 1st and 3rd Fridays. Ron Brown is present on 1st and 3rd Fridays. Margaret Morgan on 3rd Fridays, and local councillors on 1st and 3rd Fridays.  
**HACKNEY SOUTH LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS:** for details contact secretary c/o 96 Dalston Lane, E8.


**HACKNEY CENTRAL**  
Constituents advice service at 7.30pm. every Friday at 96 Dalston Lane, E8. Stanley Clinton Davis, MP, available every Friday. Ellis Hillman, GLC Councillor, available every other Friday. Local councillors every Friday.  
**HACKNEY CENTRAL LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS:** for details contact Mrs A Smith, 294 Navarino Mansions, E8.

**HACKNEY YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE**  
Meets weekly. All young people welcome.  
**HACKNEY COMMUNIST PARTY**  
Twelve branches hold meetings regularly throughout the borough. All welcome.  
**HACKNEY MORNING STAR GROUP**  
Meets weekly. Organises political, social and fund-raising events in support of Britain's socialist daily paper, the Morning Star. All Morning Star readers/supporters welcome.

For further information and a copy of the monthly newsletter detailing the meetings, campaigning actions etc. organised by the Hackney Morning Star group, Young Communist League and Communist Party contact David Green, 126 Amhurst Road, E8. Tel. 249 6374.

**HACKNEY SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY**  
Meets regularly in the borough. Contact Liz 739 9772 for details.

**LONDON WORKERS GROUP**  
For independent militants, working anarchists and all those who wish to organise for direct workers control. Meets fortnightly. Contact Box W, Rising Free, 182 Upper Street, N1, or ring Dave, 249 7042.

**ANARCHY COLLECTIVE**   
Produces ANARCHY, a seasonal magazine on sale in Centerprise and Rising Free, 20p. Also involved in general anarchist activity. Ring 359 4794 before 8pm.

**LIBERTARIAN COMMUNIST GROUP**  
c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. E8.

**ANARCHIST COMMUNIST ASSOCIATION**  
Box 11, Rising Free, 182 Upper Street, N1.

**SOCIETY FOR ANGLO-CHINESE UNDERSTANDING**  
Hackney/Islington Branch. Contact Maureen Taylor or Mon Lawlor (263 4359 during daytime). SACU is open to anyone who favours friendship and understanding between Britain and socialist China.

**HACKNEY COMMITTEE AGAINST RACIALISM**  
All-party anti-racist campaign. Meets first Wednesday of each month at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16.

**SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN**  
**HACKNEY GROUP**  
Meets second Thursday of every month at 8pm at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street E8.

## Meditation

**PARTNERSHIP FOR PROGRESS IN HACKNEY**  
Simple, natural, effortless transcendental meditation technique realizes full creative potential. Introductory talks: 8pm Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 51 Downs Park Road, E8. Tel. 254 6280.

**ANANDA MARGA**  
For spiritual progress and social change. Introduction to meditation classes every Wednesday 7.30pm. at 1 Cazenove Road, N16. Everyone welcome.

## Music and Broadcasts

**ISLINGTON & HACKNEY MUSIC WORKSHOP**  
Sing-song third Thursday every month, 8pm. Free. The Florence, Florence Street, N1.

**HACKNEY HOSPITAL RADIO**  
Programme schedule:  
Mon-Fri 7pm-9pm Pop Show  
9pm-11pm Easy Listening Show  
Sunday 1pm-5pm Pop Shows  
5pm-7pm Soul Show  
7pm-10pm Sunday Supplement (local and international news, "In Bed with a Book", funnies and music.)

Hackney Radio Roadshow disco unit. Contact Bob Kingsley 539 6235 or Hackney Hospital Radio, 985 5555 ext 115.

## Children

**HACKNEY UNDER FIVES**  
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. treet, E8. Tel. 254 9145.  
Information and support for parents with children below school age. Contact Madge Harte. Stores are available every Saturday from 10am-12.30pm. Open monthly meetings first Tuesday of every month at 8pm. in Centreprise.

**HACKNEY PLAY ASSOCIATION**  
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. treet, E8. Tel. 254 9145.  
Information, advice and help to people organising play facilities for children. Contact Cheryl Broadway or Mo Ross.

**CHILD-CARE BULLETIN COLLECTIVE**  
112b Forest Road E8.  
Publishes bulletins and pamphlets about child care and related topics. Collective is open to anyone interested. Contact 226 0817 or 254 2227 for details of next meeting—with creche.

## Transport



**HACKNEY PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACTION COMMITTEE**  
Meets regularly to discuss how to improve public transport in Hackney. Contact Tony Jacobs, 3 Hockley House, Morning Lane, E9. Tel. 986 2303.

**HACKNEY CYCLISTS ACTION GROUP**  
Fighting for cycle tracks and better provisions for cyclists. Contact Michael Ellman, 21 Arlington Square, N1. Tel. 226 1887.

## Gays

**EAST LONDON FAGGOTS**  
Collective of gay socialists living and working in East London. Contact 19 Redmans Road, E1. Tel. 790 2454.

**GAY SWITCHBOARD**  
Tel. 837 7324. 24 hour information and advice.

**EAST LONDON CHE (Campaign for Homosexual Equality)**  
East London CHE welcomes gay women and men. For details phone John, 504 1110 or Kate, 539 2331.

**GEMMA**  
Gemma Group for Disabled Lesbians, including older women. Contact BM Box 5700, London WC1V 6XX..

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit-making newspaper produced for the people of Hackney by a group of people who live in Hackney. We have no editor, no shareholders, no commercial advertising and no party political backing. HPP is YOUR paper: anyone who lives or works in Hackney is welcome to help us. No-one gets paid by the paper and all decisions are made collectively. You can tell us what you think about the paper or volunteer to help us write, produce or sell the next issue at a meeting to be held on

FRIDAY 19th MAY  
at 8pm in Centerprise

Or you can contact us by writing to us c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, London E8. Or ring 249 0311 (evenings and weekends only.)

HPP is sold through various newsagents and other outlets throughout Hackney. If you think your newsagent would like to sell it, then please contact us. If you don't think that you can spare the time to become more fully involved, but you enjoy reading it, and think more people should read it, then please get in touch if you are willing to sell a few copies to your friends or neighbours or at meetings.

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_



# William Morris and the meaning of May Day

The first issue of Hackney People's Press was published five years ago this month, in May 1973. This month, by way of celebration of our birthday, we are reprinting an article from that very first issue which examines a vision of the future as depicted by perhaps the most important early British socialist, William Morris. May Day this year is a public holiday for the first time - a good month to be five years old and a good month to be thinking of the future and the kind of society that we could build for ourselves.



Drawing for May Day 1891, by Walter Crane, a contemporary of William Morris.

For many hundreds of years, May Day has been a people's holiday: a celebration of growth on the land and a time to think of the future - to hope and to organise to fulfil that hope. For the last eighty years, growing out of that tradition, May Day has been an international festival of the Labour movement.

This year we will witness the biggest May Day demonstration that this country has seen for many years, and it is as well to remind ourselves of the nature of our struggle, and to connect ourselves with this great tradition of hope and commitment. For many of the issues that faced the Labour movement of previous eras still face us today, although many of them have taken new forms and perhaps seem less clear-cut. It is even more confusing when we have to recognise that the classic problems remain despite long periods of Labour government,

wealthy family and for many years inhabited the self-contained aesthetic world of the Pre-Raphaelite movement. However a growing awareness of the selfishness and the irrelevance of 'pure' artistic activity, made him find common cause with the socialist movement of the time. Art students and 'culture vultures' might well take note of Morris' strictures against an involvement in art that separates itself off from a total understanding of society and a desire to integrate the two.

"The consciousness of revolution stirring amidst our hateful modern society prevented me, luckier than many others of artistic perceptions, from crystallising into a mere railer against progress on the one hand, and on the other from wasting my time and energy in any of the nervous schemes by which the quasi-artistic of the middle-

But Morris was by no means an ineffectual romantic, as many have characterised him. He was actively involved in the socialist movement; he had studied Marx, and he was closely concerned with the problems of strategy and agency in discussing the conditions under which socialism would emerge. 'News from Nowhere' is without doubt his finest book, and as a text for modern socialists it can hardly be bettered. 'News from Nowhere' describes a visit into the future to the achieved socialist society. This form enabled Morris to tackle many of the problems which even now confuse us as to what is meant by the term socialism. He tackled them simply by showing them in action. In the book, the author is taken on a guided tour of London during which he asks his guide many questions as to how the new society is organised. Central to the system of socialism is the attitude towards work. For Morris, there could be no work which was not of direct use to others:

"The wares which we make are made because they are needed; men make for their neighbour's use as if they are making for themselves, not for a vague market of which they have no control ... nothing can be made except for genuine use; therefore no inferior goods are made. Moreover, as we have now found out what we want, so we make no more than that we want; and as we are not driven to make a vast quantity of useless things, we have time and resources enough to consider our pleasure in making them. All work which would be irksome to do by hand is done by immensely improved machinery; and in all work which it is a pleasure to do by hand machinery is done without ..."

Here we come to a particularly urgent problem, whether technology is going to enslave us or liberate us. The solution in fact is only soluble under socialism which for the first time will enable us to choose whether we want certain technological advances or whether we don't. Under capitalism, technology is subject to no social responsibilities, only for profit, so that even now we witness whole communities - large towns even - destroyed by unemployment in the interest of high finance allied with newer means of production. Of course, such processes are disguised nowadays with a very impressive sounding jargon - 'rationalisation' labour redeployment' - which unfortunately flow as glibly from the mouths of Labour politicians as from the mouths of the Tories as well.

Every conceivable social issue that

we can raise, Morris deals with in this book: the relationship between art and everyday life (they are totally integrated); the politics of the new society (there are none); the liberation of women (achieved without some of the false oppositions encountered at present); education (since the whole of society is educational there is no need for specialised institutions) and so on.

Perhaps the most telling moment in the novel comes when the visitor notices the elderly socialist refer to the new society by saying 'now we have got back to our childhood again'. For Morris, and I hope for us, childhood in fact presents us with a model of what socialism can offer us: the abolition of the distinction between manual and intellectual labour, the abolition of the distinctions between work and play, and being honest and open about emotions and feelings without shame or cynicism.

We are lucky, locally, to have the William Morris museum so close to hand in Walthamstow. Even though the collection of sketches, wallpaper and weaving designs, political pamphlets, etc is small, one can get a glimpse of the range and complexity of Morris's achievement. The museum is well worth a visit.

Morris's ideas and writings will only seem 'fanciful' or 'immature' or 'unrealistic' to those who basically are not prepared to confront and challenge the existing priorities of capitalism and who have not the will or energy to work for change. Socialism will not come from the skies or arise spontaneously; it has to be worked for. May Day provides us once again for an opportunity to acknowledge our position; to honour those who struggled before us, to remind ourselves of the old demands, to talk to each other and together build a movement that will bring about a society of liberty, equality and fraternity.

In 1887, during a peaceful workingmen's demonstration, one of the demonstrators, Alfred Linell, was trampled on by a police horse and died from his injuries. William Morris gave the graveside speech:

"Our friend who lies here has had a hard life and met with a hard death, and if society had been differently constituted his life might have been a delightful, a beautiful and happy one. It is our business to begin to organise for the purpose of seeing that such things shall not happen; to try and make this earth a beautiful and happy place."

This is what May Day is all about.

KEN WORPOLE



government by the party that for so long many of us felt was the one built to bring about the objectives of a socialist struggle.

Perhaps we need to remind ourselves more frequently of what it was that we hoped for, by our involvement in the Labour movement, and it may be that we could well do this by reassessing the contribution that William Morris made to the socialist movement in this country, as a means of reminding us of the degradation of human life under capitalism, and the possibilities offered us by a socialist reorganisation of society.

William Morris was born in Walthamstow in 1844. He came from a

classes hope to make art grow when it has no longer any root, and thus I became a practical Socialist."

His awareness of what motive power of capitalist economics-profit-involves for everyday life is evident from this strikingly prophetic comment:

"Is money to be gathered? Cut down the pleasant trees among the houses, pull down the venerable and ancient buildings for the money that a few square yards of London dirt will fetch; blacken rivers, hide the sun and poison the air with smoke and worse, and it's nobody's business to see to it and mend it."